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Appl. No. : 10/691,695
Office Action Dated : 12/07/2007
Response Mailed / Faxed : 06/07/2007

AMENDMENT(S) TO CLAIMS

Please amend the claim(s) below by deleting items with a strikeout (i.e. ~~patent~~), brackets (i.e., [patent]) or double brackets (i.e., [[patent]]) and adding items marked with an underline (i.e. patent).

Claim 1 (Previously Presented) An apparatus for filling a syringe from a vial comprising:

a housing having a vial compartment and a guide compartment mutually adjacent
and concentric about an axial length;
an articulated door mounted to the housing;
the door selectively movable between a closed position and an open position, wherein
the door mechanically communicates with the housing and encloses the
housing in a closed position, and wherein the door provides access to the
compartments in an open position;
a syringe guide removable from the guide compartment; and
the guide comprising an aperture traversing the axial length of the guide
accommodating insertion of the syringe therethrough for guided
communication with the vial.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the vial compartment accommodates different sizes of vials.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the guide comprises means for

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retaining the syringe while the plunger is withdrawn from the syringe.

Claim 4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the guide comprises transparent material so that the syringe is visible within the guide.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said syringe guides feature a tab on one end, and said means for holding a medicine vial features a slot for receiving said tab and wherein said tab and said slot are so arranged that the syringe guides can be placed in the apparatus in only one orientation.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said means for holding a medicine vial features a tab on one end, and said interchangeable syringe guides feature a slot for receiving said tab and wherein said tab and said slot are so arranged that said interchangeable syringe guides can be placed in the apparatus in only one orientation.

Claim 8 (Canceled)

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Claim 9 (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said interchangeable syringe guides are made of a clear material which magnifies the view of a syringe inserted therein.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the interchangeable syringe guides feature a "V" shaped groove serving to align a syringe placed therein with said medicine vial.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the interchangeable syringe guides are hingeably associated with said means for holding the vial.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the interchangeable syringe guides nest with each other.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the door assists in retaining the vial within the housing.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the door comprises a magnifier for viewing the contents of the compartments.

Claim 15 (Canceled)

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Claim 16 (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the door assists in retaining the guide within the housing.

Claim 17 (Canceled)

Claim 18 (Withdrawn) An apparatus for filling a syringe from a medicine vial comprising:

- a) a means for holding a medicine vial, and
- b) a repositionable syringe guide operably associated with said means, said syringe guide accommodating different sizes or types of syringes.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said means is capable of holding different sizes of medicine vials.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said repositionable syringe guide comprises:

- a) a reference surface located proximate to the seal of said medicine vial,
- b) an opposing surface opposite said reference surface,
- c) more than one aperture leading from said reference surface to said opposing surface, said apertures being of different diameters and lengths to accommodate different syringes.

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Claim 21 (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said apertures intersect along their lengths.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said repositionable syringe guide is constructed of clear material and the sides along the length of said apertures are shaped to magnify the view of any syringes inserted into said apertures.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said repositionable syringe guide is repositioned for a different sized syringe by removing said repositionable syringe guide, rotating it to align the appropriate aperture, and replacing it into the apparatus.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said repositionable syringe guide is rotatably associated with said means for holding a medicine vial.

Claim 25 (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said repositionable syringe guide comprises means for retaining a syringe inserted therein when the syringe plunger is withdrawn to fill said syringe.

Claim 26 (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said repositionable syringe guide comprises:

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- a) a nominally polygonal cross section, and
- b) "V-shaped" grooves down the length of its sides with each said "V-shaped" groove having a different depth so as to support different diameter syringes at the same distance from the central axis of said repositionable syringe guide.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented) A method for filling a syringe from a vial comprising:

- a) using an apparatus having
 - a housing having a vial compartment and a guide compartment mutually adjacent and concentric about an axial length;
 - an articulated door mounted to the housing;
 - a syringe guide removable from the guide compartment; and
 - the guide comprising an aperture traversing the axial length of the guide accommodating insertion of the syringe therethrough for guided communication with the vial.
- b) placing the vial in the vial compartment,
- c) selecting an appropriately sized syringe for the aperture and inserting the syringe in the aperture,
- d) inserting the syringe through the aperture into the vial, and
- e) filling the syringe with fluid from the vial.

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Claim 28 (Withdrawn) A method for filling a syringe from a medicine vial comprising:

- a) using an apparatus having
 - I) a means for holding a medicine vial, and
 - II) a repositionable syringe guide operably associated with said means, said syringe guide accommodating different sizes and types of syringes,
- b) by placing a medicine vial in said means,
- c) repositioning said syringe guide so that an appropriately sized guiding feature is aligned with said medicine vial,
- d) inserting said syringe through the guide into the vial, and
- e) filling said syringe.

Claim 29 (Withdrawn) An apparatus for filling a syringe from a medicine vial comprising:

- a) a base having two ends, sides connecting said ends, and at least two apertures of different diameters passing from one end to the other to accommodate different size syringes,
- b) means for holding said medicine vial in communication with said apertures.

Claim 30 (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein said ends are not parallel, and the apertures are of different lengths to accommodate syringes of different lengths.

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Claim 31 (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein at least one of the ends is non-planar so that the apertures are of different lengths to accommodate syringes of different lengths.

Claim 32 (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 29 further comprising a means for retaining said syringe to said base when the plunger is withdrawn to fill said syringe.

Claim 33 (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein said base is made of a clear material so that said syringes are visible after insertion into said base.

Claim 34 (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 33 wherein the sides of said base are curved to provide a magnified view of a syringe inserted into said base.

Claim 35 (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein said means for retaining said medicine vial comprises slots in the base at the end of each aperture, said slots being transverse to the axis of the aperture and being wide enough at the surface of the base to accommodate the neck of the vial but being undercut below the surface of the base to accommodate the seal cap portion at the end of said medicine vial.

Claim 36 (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 35 wherein said slots are at a non-perpendicular angle to the axis of the respective holes.

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Claim 37 (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein said means for retaining said medicine vial comprises a member shaped generally to contain said medicine vial, said member having near the vial top a means to join with said base, said base having a matching feature to accept said means for retaining said medicine vial.

Claim 38 (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein;

I) said means for holding a medicine vial comprises,

- a) a chamber shaped to accept a medicine vial,
- b) a slot or aperture in one of the walls of said chamber, said slot or aperture large enough to accommodate at least the neck of a medicine vial, and
- c) an interlocking feature located external to said chamber at said slot or aperture, and,

II) said one or more interchangeable syringe guides comprise,

- a) a recess for receiving the top of a medicine vial protruding from said slot or aperture, and
- b) an interlocking feature complimentary to said interlocking feature of said means for holding a medicine vial,

III) wherein the interlocking of said means for holding a medicine vial and said one or more interchangeable syringe guides serves to retain said medicine vial.

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Claim 39 (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the retaining means engages tabs on the open end of the barrel of the syringe inserted into the guide.

Claim 40 (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the retaining means engages the edge of the open end of the barrel of the syringe inserted into the guide.

Claim 41 (Withdrawn) A method for filling a syringe from a medicine vial comprising:

- a) using an apparatus having a
 - I) a means for holding a medicine vial, and
 - II) changeable syringe guides operably associated with said means, said syringe guides accommodating different sizes and types of syringes,
- b) selecting an appropriately sized syringe guide and placing a syringe in it,
- c) withdrawing the piston in the syringe to draw in a volume of air equal to the amount of medicine desired,
- d) removing the syringe at least partially so that the needle does not interfere when
- e) assembling the means for holding the medicine vial, the vial, and the syringe guide with syringe,
- f) fully reinserting the syringe, so that the needle will penetrate the seal in the now present vial,

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g) expelling the air from the syringe into the vial, and

h) withdrawing the piston to draw in the correct amount of medicine.